

# THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



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COUNCILMEMBER  
THIRD DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Councilmember Atkins Calls on GSA to Honor City Ordinance and Replace Lost SRO Units**

**San Diego** - The closure of State Hotel and the impending closure of the Hotel San Diego and Capri Hotel by the General Services Administration to make way for a new federal courthouse are of grave and immediate concern to me and the citizens of San Diego. The loss of 398 units of affordable housing from these three locations will have a devastating impact on downtown San Diego and the residents who call these SROs home.

These SROs represent the lowest cost rental housing in downtown San Diego and are vital to maintaining affordable housing in this neighborhood. At a time when San Diego is in the midst of a severe housing crisis, and prices for housing have dramatically increased and continue to escalate, the General Services Administration must respect our local ordinances regarding the replacement of transitional and affordable housing units. These units must be replaced by the General Services Administration, and they must be replaced immediately.

If the federal government fails to replace our housing units as quickly as they tear them down, it's the citizens who live in these units whose lives will be turned upside down. We must not allow this to happen.

Today I call on the General Services Administration to deliver to the City of San Diego their comprehensive plan for replacing these units. Plans for a new federal courthouse should proceed in tandem with such a plan. I understand the need for a new federal courthouse. I equally support the replacement of the units lost for this project. We can and we must do both.

Further, I urge the General Services Administration to continue to allow the residents to remain in the Capri Hotel until they replace the 400 units that will be lost to make way for the federal courthouse. As a matter of fairness, this provision should be incorporated into the comprehensive plan for replacing the lost units.

The federal government has a legal and moral responsibility to provide for the safety and welfare of citizens it is displacing. I eagerly await the General Service Administration's response.

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